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DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN TRADE, JANUARY 1953

[This report consists of four items on Czechoslovak foreign trade, taken from the Prague periodical Zahranicni Obchod, January 1953.]

APPROVE 1953 FOREIGN TRADE PLAN

The Minister of Foreign Trade, Richard Dvorak, presented the 1953 foreign trade plan at a government meeting on 30 December 1952. The plan anticipates further increases in the mutual exchange of goods and all-round co-operation with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies. After a discussion, the plan was approved.

The government also approved the minister's report on the arrangement of a Czechoslovak industrial exhibition to be held at Helsinki in January and February 1953.

NEGOTIATE IN MOSCOW

On 8 January 1953, a Czechoslovak government delegation, headed by Minister of Foreign Trade Richard Dvorak, departed for Moscow. The delegates took part in negotiations of trade agreements with the Soviet Union for 1953.

REGULATIONS FOR EXPORT GOODS

A list of regulations concerning export goods, as determined by a government decision of 23 December 1952, appeared in Uredni List on 31 December 1952. These regulations concern the allotment of goods for export; delivery quotas and instructions for the distribution, quality, packaging, wrapping, and loading of goods; penalties and compensation for losses; rejection of goods by customers; and the arbitration of disputes.

A ruling of the State Planning Office regulates the delivery and sale of imports of capital goods. This ruling went into effect on 1 January 1953.

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ESTABLISH JOINT-STOCK COMPANY FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT OF CULTURAL MATERIAL

On 1 January 1953, the Minister of Foreign Trade established "Artia," a Czechoslovak joint-stock company for the import and export of cultural material, in Prague. The company handles the import and export of printed matter (periodicals, irregular publications, books, music, pictures, postcards), records and films, and antiques. On 1 January 1953, the exclusive rights of import and export of cultural material delegated to the following enterprises were rescinded: Orbis, a publishing house in Prague; Gramofonovy Zavod (Phonograph Company), a national enterprise in Prague; Ceskoslovensky Statni Film (Czechoslovak National Films), a national enterprise in Prague; and "Antikva", a national enterprise in Prague.

On 1 January 1953, the exclusive rights of the above-mentioned enterprises to import and export of cultural material were transferred to the "Artia" company. To safeguard cultural-political interests in regard to the import and export of cultural material, the Ministry of Foreign Trade is setting up an advisory body composed of six members and a chairman. Three members are named and recalled by the Minister of Foreign Trade and three by the Minister of Information and Enlightenment. The chairman of the advisory body is named and recalled by the Minister of Foreign Trade with the consent of the Minister of Information and Enlightenment.

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